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From: Blend, Jeff
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Subject: Individual variance language

Another good piece of info from the following publication found at
<http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/nutrientworkgroup/default.mcp>:

DRAFT 7.1

Carrying Out a Substantial and Widespread Economic Analysis for Individual Nutrient Standards Variances

AND

Guidelines for Determining if a Waste Water Treatment Facility Can Remain at a Previous General Variance Concentration

“In cases where substantial and widespread economic impact has been demonstrated per methods outlined here in **Section 3.0**, the Department expects that in most cases the discharger (and their engineers) will propose to the Department some level of effluent improvement beyond that which they are currently doing, but less stringent than the general variances concentrations (which are now in statute at §75-5-313, MCA, and which will later be adopted as Department rules in 2016). A likely scenario would be that the discharger could implement a treatment technology one level less sophisticated than that required to meet the general variance concentrations. Basic definitions for different treatment levels are found in Falk et al. (2011); through 2016 the general variance requirement for dischargers > 1 MGD corresponds to level 2. When the discharger and the Department have come to agreement on the level of treatment required, the treatment levels will be adopted by the Department following the Department’s formal rule making process, and documented in Circular DEQ-12, Part B.”

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